IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Matsumoto

Appl. No.

Herewith

Filed

April 2, 2004

Title

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MEDICAL IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, AND MEDIAL

IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD

Grp./A.U.

Not Yet Assigned

Docket No.

60,233-005

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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Dear Sir:

Pursuant to Rule 97 and in compliance with Rule 56, Applicant hereby makes of record the items listed on the attached Form PTO/SB08A. Under the provisions set forth whereby the office waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, Attorney for applicant is not submitting a copy of any of the U.S. noted references referred to on the enclosed PTO/SB08A, due to the fact that the above noted application is being filed on April 2, 2004.

None of these items noted on the PTO/SB08A disclose the inventive concepts claimed in the subject application.

Should there be a fee associated with this document, please charge it to Deposit Account No. 08-2789. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

April 2, 2004

Date

Raymond E. Scott, Reg. No. 22,981

The Pinehurst Office Center, Suite #101

39400 Woodward Ave.

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-5151

(248) 723-0306

Enclosures: PTO/SB08

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee", Mailing Label No. <u>EL997489907US</u> and addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on April 2, 2004.

Tracy L. Smith

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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number. Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449/PTO Application Number Herewith Filing Date April 2, 2004 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE First Named Inventor Kazuhiko Matsumoto STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Art Unit Not Yet Assigned (Use as many sheets as necessary) Examiner Name Not Yet Assigned Attorney Docket Number 60,233-005

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Document Number Publication I MM-DD-YY Number-Kind Code ^{2 (# known)}		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevan Figures Appear	
		^{US-} 6,424,732	07-23-2002	Shiffman et al		
		^{US-} 6,501,848	12-31-2002	Carroll et al		
		^{US-} 6,628,743	09-30-2003	Drummond et al		
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY			Τ ⁶
		JP 2002-282235	10-02-2002	William et al		
		JP 08-089501	04-09-1996	Kenji et al		
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PTO/SB/08B (08-03) Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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		NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS	
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		STANISLAV L. STOEV, et al., Extracting Regions of Interest Applying a Local Watershed Transformation; University of Tubingen; Oct. 8-13, 2000	
	"		
	<u>-</u>		
Examiner		Date Considered	

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